



196 Light Infantry Brigade Association



**CPL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ
MEDAL OF HONOR**

BY-LAWS

Article I. Title

The Association shall be known as the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association.

Article II. Aims and Objectives

Section 1. To preserve and foster the spirit of fellowship among former and possible future members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army, and provide an organization through which they may unite in bonds of comradeship.

Section 2. To commemorate the memory of soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Section 3. To support a national military that will promote stability and peace throughout the world.

Section 4. To foster public understanding and support of the United States Army.

Section 5. To promote and perpetuate those Army and unit traditions that contribute to esprit de corps and superior performance of duty.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association shall be open to any soldier, active, retired or honorably discharged Veteran, who served or was attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade during its active service.

Section 2. Terms of Membership. Membership in the Association shall remain in force so long as the member maintains current status by payment of prescribed dues.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Enumeration. The Officers of the Association shall be a President who shall be the Chief Executive Officer, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Duties. The Officers of the Association shall administer the affairs of the Association in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 3. Terms and Election. The President and the Vice President shall be elected by the membership, as provided in these By-Laws. The terms of office of the President and Vice President shall be two (2) years, and they shall be eligible for reelection. The other officers shall be appointed by the President.

Section 4. Vacancies in Elective Offices. If the President vacates his office during his term, the Vice President shall succeed thereto.

Section 5. Honorary Presidents. The Honorary Presidency of the Association may be tendered after election by the membership.

ON THE COVER: CPL Michael J. Crescenz - Medal Of Honor - statute at the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Philadelphia VA Medical Center was renamed the **Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center** in honor of the Company A, 4/31, 196th Light Infantry Brigade soldier, who gave his life to save his buddies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Chargers

Wow, 2017 already, where have the days gone. Louisville will be here before we know it.

Last January I had the privilege of appearing before the Ohio House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in support of the 196th Memorial Highway. I was also treated to a tour of the Ohio State House by Rep. Buchy and staff.

In April I attended the unveiling of the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz statue which is located at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Philadelphia, PA. The VA Medical Center in Philadelphia was named in his honor last year. Corporal Crescenz was the only person from Philadelphia to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

In July I attended the Ohio Chapter reunion in Mansfield. A fine group of 14 Chargers were in attendance along with family and friends. It was great, as always, to share the comradery with brothers. Unfortunately I had to leave early Saturday to attend a buddy's funeral in West Virginia. He was a fellow Vietnam veteran who served with the 3rd Marines 1965-66.

In November I attended the dedication of the "196th Light Infantry Brigade/ Robert L Fowble Jr & PFC Jack E Beam Memorial Highway" in Union City, Ohio. It is a stretch of State Route 571 between Union City and Greenville. SP4 Fowble was KIA 11/3/66. PFC Beam was KIA 12/21/66. Both were members of B 2/1. The 196th was well represented by a number of Charger veterans as well as other veterans from the Darke County, Ohio area.

It has been a humbling honor and privilege to serve as the association's president the last four years, however, I have decided not to run again. Our Vice-President Mike Timmerman has agreed to run for President. We will need someone to run for Vice-President. It's time for brothers who served in the later years of 69-71 to step up and take ownership or we may be forced to dissolve. There are many qualified members for these positions so contact your brothers about running for or volunteering for an office. Please be prepared to provide nominations, at the business meeting, including yourself! We urgently need volunteers for the appointed positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

We are all getting older, so don't wait, call your buddies today and bring them to Louisville!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

In brotherly bond,

Dave Eichhorn, President

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

I hope your holidays were wonderful. I can't wait to see you guys, I look forward to the reminiscing. I can't believe that we are in our 3rd quarter as the saying goes. Time seems to have gone by in a wisp. I believe we are a rare breed of Brothers the camaraderie amongst us is just amazing.

On another note, I want to mention to you all that I am now a VFW Service Officer handling vet claims, so if any of you need help with a claim don't hesitate to contact me by email at: tjbeale1@aol.com

Or, call me on my cell at: 201-206-7430.

I have plenty of time and remember it's never too late to file a claim.

Wishing you the best for you and your family, take care,

Mike Timmerman, Vice Pres.

Minutes of 2015 Business Meeting
196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
Hilton Daytona Beach Resort, Daytona Beach Florida
9 AM, Saturday, 3 October 2015

Meeting Called to Order by President David Eichhorn

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation by Chaplain Ed Griffin
- Greeting and Welcome to First Timers
- Welcome Special Guests – LTG Wetzel, COL Mitchell, CSM Johnson.
- Introduction of Officers
- Reading of Minutes from 2013 Business Meeting held at Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA.

Motion to accept the Minutes as read/Seconded/Approved

Reading of the Treasurer's Report

Life Fund 70,663.70

Money Market Fund 60,317.03

Reunion Fund 13,152.06

Regular Checking Account	17,800.33
Total Worth as of 9/30/15	\$166,933.12

Motion to Accept the Treasurer's report as read /Seconded/Approved

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Informed the Membership of Disbursements made on behalf of the Association since the last meeting as follows –
- \$1,000 to the MOH Donald Sloat family to defray costs of travel, transportation and housing for the unveiling of MOH Sloat's name on the Americal MOH monument at Ft Benning, GA..
- \$2,500.00 to help cover travel, transportation and lodging costs to bring Sgt Cau and family to the reunion in honor and recognition of his contribution to the members of the 196th as a scout and interpreter during the war.
- \$196.00 to help defray the cost of a statue for MOH Michael Crescenz at the Philadelphia, PA VA Medical Center renamed in his honor.
- \$196.00 to sponsor the 16th hole at the annual NJ Veterans Golf Tournament and fund raiser.

Minutes of 2015 Business Meeting (cont.)

- Grant Fund set up as the JB Evans Memorial Fund to be administered by the officers of the Association. JB's widow donated the initial \$300 to open the fund. Another \$300 was donated in the name of Tony May. The Piantkowski Brothers have donated \$1000 in the name their brother Ed, C 4/31, KIA 11/13/66. Historically they give a donation of \$196 at each reunion to help fund the hospitality room. The first grant of \$150 to allow one member to attend was approved by the officers. A lifetime payout level has been set at \$1500 per member vote.
- Jim McGinnis asked if the Association would support a full page ad at the annual veteran's banquet and program to honor the contributions of NJ politicians to veteran's and their families. Cost is \$300.00. It was put up for a vote and seconded. Membership unanimously approved the expenditure by show of hands.

Further business of interest to the membership

- President Eichhorn told the membership of the trip he & Past President Warren Neill made to be guest speakers at the 2nd Annual 196th Infantry Brigade Luau. The presentation was titled, "The Legacy of the 196th Infantry Brigade".
- President Eichhorn acknowledged the contributions made by former President Warren Neill for mentoring him over the last two years, Ken McKenzie for his continuing excellence with the newsletter and the website. He gave a special thank you to all of the members who are acting as liaisons for their individual units. They do a lot of work to keep tabs on their guys and provide SITREPS to the national association of any updates that need to be made. The DAV, VVMF and Army Historical Museum were acknowledged for their continuing efforts on behalf of 196th Soldiers, as well as all Veterans.
- President Eichhorn announced there are approximately 430 members in attendance at this reunion with an expected 800+ persons at tonight's banquet
- President Eichhorn announced that the next national reunion will be held 26-30 July 2017 in Louisville, KY.

Open Discussion

- A suggestion was made to purchase remote microphones for use at the business meetings so that everyone can be heard. It was decided that we could arrange that with future venues as part of the contract.
- A suggestion was made by Brother Rich Rinaldo that the 196th should get actively involved with the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War. It was discussed and will be looked at by Past President Neill to determine if we should go with it.

Elections

- A motion was made and seconded to re-elect David Eichhorn as President and Mike Timmerman as VP. There being no other nominations or discussion a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and reelect the current officers by acclamation. So moved. All assembled voted their approval by a show of hands. Opposed – None.

President David Eichhorn re-appointed Warren Neill, Secretary and Ken Wright,

Minutes of 2015 Business Meeting (cont.)

Treasurer. Ken McKenzie agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Further Discussion

- President Eichhorn and Editor/Webmeister Ken McKenzie have indicated that Ken needs help with his tasks with an eye to turning his duties over to another brother. No date was proposed but he will need help putting out another newsletter by the end of this year.
- Past President and Interim Secretary Warren Neill made a plea for some new volunteers to step up and take responsibility for the life of the Association. He said that the same dozen folks or so have been carrying all the weight for the last 30 years and it is time for some fresh blood to step up. He is particularly seeking someone to take over the Secretary's duties ASAP as he has reached a point where he is beginning to make numerous mental errors that translate into poor database maintenance. He is looking to turn it over shortly after the first of the year and is asking for volunteers to make themselves known. A suggestion was made that the Association has sufficient funds to consider the hiring of an outside entity to take over all of the day to day operations for a fee. Neill will look into that possibility and report back to the President ASAP.
- Quartermaster Rich Mosher is looking for someone to take over the 196th LIB Assn merchandise. He tried but has been experiencing problems keeping the 196th merch separate from his own inventory and has been losing money by using his credit card to accept payments that are commingled with his and inflates his income which in turn inflates his tax liability.

Announcements

- None
- Song by Doug Moses – "Farewell My Soldier Laddies"
- Benediction by Chaplain Ed Griffin

Motion to Close/Seconded

President Eichhorn adjourned the meeting at 1030

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren R Neill Jr, Interim Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 17, 2017, the 196th accounts contain:

Checking: \$34627.26

Savings: \$70795.87

Edward Jones investment: \$64797.28

Total: \$170,220.41

This newsletter is anticipated to cost approximately \$13,000, and there will be some expenses for the reunion.

Ken Wright, Treasurer

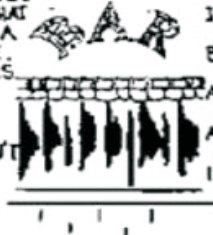
Joseph P. Kramer was an original member of Co C, 4/31, 196th.

Joe was an extraordinary artist, and was lucky to be selected to draw for the 25th Div newspaper. He was killed in a bunker during a rocket attack on the 25th Div base camp at Cu Chi on April 10, 1967.

Vietnam in Capsule Form By Kramer



I REMEMBER ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO I WAS LEADING WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A VAGABOND LIFE. NO RESPONSIBILITIES. I COULD COME AND GO AS FREE AND EASY AS THE WIND. I WASN'T ACCOMPLISHING A THING.



I WOULD SPEND MOST OF MY IDLE EVENINGS AT THE LOCAL PUB BOOZING IT UP WITH THE BOYS AND DISCUSSING WORLD PROBLEMS AND WHAT WE COULD DO TO IMPROVE OUR SOCIAL LIVES.



OCCASIONALLY I WOULD SCrimp AND SAVE SOME MONEY UNTIL I HAD ENOUGH TO SPEND A WEEKEND AT A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER RESORT ON CAPE COD AND I WOULD DEVOTE ALL MY TIME TO WINE? WOMEN? SONG?



AND WHEN I WASN'T OUT SOCIALIZING SOMEWHERE I WOULD TURN MY EXCESS ENERGY TO RACING MY SUPER SPEED ASTON MARTIN DB-5 IN THE TRUE 007 TRADITION.



RACING UP AND DOWN COUNTRY ROADS WITH MY PURE 100% ITALIAN IMPORTED SILK SCARF AND MY LONG BLACK HAIR WHIPPING IN THE WIND.



THEN I STOPPED AND COLLECTED MY THOUGHTS AND ASKED MYSELF WHAT WAS GOING TO BECOME OF ME? HOW LONG COULD I GO ON LIKE THIS?



IT WAS SUCH A RELENTLESS, LUSTFUL SORT OF LIFE BUT I HED...HEH... I ENJOYED IT. THE PACE WAS FAST BUT I COULD KEEP UP. I COULD GO ON LIVING LIKE THAT. I KNEW I COULD.



THEN I GOT DRAFTED.



WELL THAT WASN'T SO BAD I COULD LEARN TO CHANGE MY LIFE FOR AMBLES BUT WHAT REALLY HURT WAS WELL...ER... THEY...UH...



WELL... THEY CUT MY HAIR.

J. Kramer

TAPS

We often are not notified of a members passing until we get a notice from the Post Office. If you have any information on the death of a 196th Brother, please send it to the Editor.

Biggins, John J. "Jack", Dec 28, 2014, served with Co B, 3/21, 1966-67. Jack leaves a wife, Betty to whom he was married 47 years, and three children and several grand-kids. He was from Palatka, FL and was retired from Georgia Pacific.



Janas, Terrence Timothy, Nov 21, 1947 - Sept 22, 2013, served with HHC, 4/31, 1967-68. Terrance was from Chicago, IL. Interment was at St. Adalbert Cemetery. For everything there is a season... a time for war, and a time for peace. The information was shared by Stephen York.

Krueger, Richard, May 31, 2014, served with F Troop, 17th Cav. Rich was on a 106 Jeep in the third platoon. He was from Neenah, WI, and passed away due to complications caused by diabetes.

Tufele, Jake I., Dec 7, 1949- Jul 5, 2015, served with Co C, 3/21, 1970. Jake was from Chicago and was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa. He was the beloved husband of Si'ufofoga, loving father of three, and proud grandfather. He had twelve brothers and many nieces and nephews. Jake was a Purple Heart recipient.

Colasurdo, Louis, May 5, 1945 - July 2014, served with HHQ, 196th MP Platoon, 1965-67. Louis was from Edison, NJ.

Schulman, Marvin, Nov 11, 2014. Marvin was a SSG and served with the 196th from 1965-66 at Ft Devens and Vietnam. His son Henry provided this information.



Harris, CSM Oscar, Mar 3, 1928-Nov 23, 2014, served with HHQ, 2/1, 1965-67. Oscar was a Life Member of the 196th Association.

Oscar's military career after basic and advanced training began with Infantry Recon and Intelligence. Following this period, the remainder of his service was primarily Infantry Intelligence and Operations from Battalion to Division Level. Military service included overseas tours to Korea (2nd Infantry Division, 9th Regiment- 1951-1952); Germany (1955-1959 47th Infantry Regiment; 370th Armored Infantry Battalion; 1st Armored Rifle Battalion, 46th Infantry) and Vietnam (196th Light Infantry Brigade 1966-67 and 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division 1969-1970). Awards and decorations received include: Good Conduct Award, National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Medal, Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and The Purple Heart while in Vietnam. Oscar attained the Highest Rank – Command Sergeant Major (Non-Commissioned Officer).

After retiring from the Army, Oscar attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec and received his Associate of Science Degree in Communications. His second career included working with the St. Louis Visitors and Convention Bureau, Hoover Brothers Audio Visual and serving with the Projectionist Union. Oscar then became self employed as a Meeting Planning Consultant.

Elmore, Herbert, served with 4/31, 1965-67 and was from Seymour, IN.

Evens, James Bull (JB), served with Co B, 3/21, 1969-70 and was from Claremont, CA.

May, Charles Anthony "Tony", Aug 8, 1946 - Feb 24, 2015, served with Co B, 3/21 in 1968. Tony was the co-founder and driving force behind "Locate-A-Brother. It was formed to help former 196th soldiers connect with their brothers, and provided a great service to all Chargers. Tony attended reunions until his health prevented him from doing so. Burial was in Phoenix City Cemetery in Oregon. Thanks for your years of unselfish work, RIP.

McDowell, George A., Feb 29, 1948 - Mar 14, 2015, served with 3rd Platoon, Co A, 2/1 from 1965 - 1967. Jim Armstrong reports that George was somewhat of a rarity in that he enlisted at age 17 and trained with draftees. He was

TAPS (cont)

a natural leader and made sergeant early. He lived in Prospect Park, PA, and suffered from several of the conditions that have been connected to Agent Orange.

Esteppe, Sgt. Holland, Aug 2014, served with 1st Platoon, Co B, 3/21 from 1965 - 67.

Rhodes, Charles Francis, Aug 2, 2015, age 66. Chuck served with F-Troop, 17th Cav from 1967 - 69. Chuck, from Marcellus, MI, was awarded two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and one Silver Star. He retired from the Kalamazoo Post Office and was an active member of the DAV, VFW Post #4054, NRA, and Southern Cross Americal Division. He was a LIFE MEMBER of the 196th Association. He leaves two children and ten grandchildren.

Ingenito, Joseph M., Dec 25, 2015, served with Co C, 4/31 from 1965 - 67. Joe lived in Cliffside Park, NJ and was interred at St. Joseph Cemetery in Hackensack, NJ.

Briggs, William Robert, June 2015, served with Co D, 3/21 in 1970. His widow is interested in learning about his service, contact: Roger Gilmore at Gilmoraces@aol.com if you can help.

Hacker, Bill, July 8, 2016, served with Co D, 2/1 in 1970. He had been in inpatient care for over 100 days before he succumbed to cancer and lung disease. His life had been spared in January 1970, by the sacrifice of his close friend and squad member, Donald P. Sloat (MOH). Bill's wife Barbara says they will now be together.

Lebon, Eugene "Geno" C., June 1, 1949 - Nov 20, 2016, served as a medic with D, 4/31 from 1970-71. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with "V", Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He was from Racine, WI and retired from J.I. Case after 32 years,. Gene was active with American Legion Post #494, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assn Chapter 45-1, and was one of the original H.O.G. members of Racine. He leaves a wife, Gwen, and children and grand-children.

McCabe, Joe, July 8, 2016, served with 2nd Platoon, D, 4/31 from 1967-68.

Hearn, John Harold, Mar 31, 1946 - Oct 29, 2015, served with A, 3/21 from 1966-67. John was from Sandusky, MI and was a LIFE MEMBER of the Association.

Fischer, Jim, Oct 30, 2015, served with C-3/82 Arty from 1967-68. Jim was from Crestwood, IL.

Bacon, Bill, Feb 3, 1944 - Feb 27, 2016, served with A, 3/21 from 1965-67. Bill was from Bloomfield, NY.

Williams, Ronald W., Nov 30, 1946 - Nov 4, 2015, served with A, 2/1. Ron was from Merritt Island, FL and was a LIFE MEMBER of the Association.

Goad, "Doc" Jim, July 15, 1946 - Jan 21, 2016, served as medic with C, 4/31 from 1967-68. Doc was from Flattop, WV.

Sola, Antonio, May 14, 2016, served D, 4/31 in both Korea and Vietnam, where he was Commander. He was an original 196th from 1965-67. Antonio was from Caguas, Puerto Rico and had attended several reunions including the last in Daytona.

Skuse, Harland G. "Chip", April 12, 1946 - Jul 9, 2016, served with D, 4/31 from 1967-68. Chip was from Woodbridge, NJ.

Black, Douglas L., Sept 27, 1945 - Jul 24, 2016, served with C, 4/31 from 1965-67. Doug was from Greenville, OH and was a LIFE MEMBER of the Association. Doug attended most, if not all, of the 196th Reunions.

Akiona, Gabe, Jul 21, 2016, served with D, 4/31 from late 1969-70. Gabe was from Ewa Beach, HI.

Smith, Charles, Jan 4, 1943 - Apr 16, 2016, served with A, 3/21 Mortars from 1967-68. Charles was from Salisbury, MD and was a LIFE MEMBER of the Association.

Clark, Lucious, Aug 4, 2016, served with 3rd Plt, D, 4/31 from 1967-68. He was from St. Simons Island, GA.

Murphy, Frank, Mar 19, 1946 - Aug 23, 2016, served with HHQ 3/82 from 1965-67. He was from Stratford, CT.

Forth, Harold, Aug 23, 2016, served with C, 3/21 from 1969-70.

Zuleger, Eddie, Dec 5, 2016, served with both D & A, 4/31 from 1968-69. He was from Litchfield Park, AZ.

McCabe, Joe, Jul 8, 2016, served with 2nd Plt, D, 4/31 from 1967-68. He was from Cincinnati, OH.

Lebon, "Doc" Eugene, Nov 20, 2016, served as medic with D, 4/31 from 1970-71. Doc was from Caledonia, WI.

Lynch, COL Hugh J., Nov 20, 2016. Col Lynch commanded the 4/31 from its inception at Ft. Devens to Vietnam.

Walker, Jack Lewis, Jan 7, 2016, served with 1st Plt, D, 4/31 in 1968. He was from Nacogdoches, TX.



MAIL CALL

LOOKING FOR INFO ON GRANDFATHER

Clyde James Ball was a member of Echo Company, 1/46. I am his grandson and I'm looking for information on him. I never got to meet him, but would like to hear from anyone who served with him as well as the situation surrounding his death.

Thank you for your service,
Brandon York
337-424-9906
Bwy23@suddenlink.net

F-TROOP TRACK HIT MINE

Mike Hooten is looking for an F Trooper who may be from Houston, TX. Some time in early to mid 1971 F Troop was called out on a mission that called for locating a downed helicopter and look for survivors. They were closing in on the wreckage when the track in front of him hit a mine. The TC lived however he lost a foot. He was dusted-off and Mike has not heard from him since the accident. If anyone recalls this incident please email me or call me. Hopefully, we can locate this F Trooper. This incident happened out in the sands area.

Contact: *Chris F. Johnson*
(502) 222-3477, csncfj05@aol.com

LOOKING FOR H.C. 2/1 SOLDIERS

I was shot four times in January 1968 and would like to contact the following for corroboration of my claim.

LT Rutty, William Deduces, Charles Miller (TO), and Floyd and Bradley from the 1st or 2nd Platoon.

Leo M. Steele
Eugene, OR
541-342-7485, salmsteele@yahoo.com

C, 3/21, 1969

Looking for; SGT Fry; LT Anderson; SF Soldier Greene. For corroboration of claim.

Contact: *George P. Agavino*
48 Thomas St, Coram, NY 11727-3158
631-696-2346

D, 3/21 6/69-6/70

Looking for fellow wounded soldiers; Thomas Winburn, Nava (?) from CA, Curt or Kurt Russell from Houston, TX area.

Contact: *Louis Lira*
806-847-7219, louislira@aol.com

INCIDENT ON LZ EAST

I served in Vietnam from July 1968 until June 11, 1969, when I was WIA on LZ East and evacuated to Japan. I have a copy of General Orders (Purple Heart) that lists my company as H.C. 3/21 196th LIB Americal Division. This copy also included 21 names of others wounded on that date. I am particularly interested in contacting two people that were assigned to the same unit that I was assigned to — 1st Lt Fletcher C. Phillips and Ronald W. Dye

I was assigned to LZ Baldy and was re-supplying a racon platoon on June 10, 1969 when I got stuck on the hill (LZ East) because there were no helicopters available for a flight back to Baldy. They found a spot for me to sleep that night in the Communications Bunker with 2 or 3 other soldiers that I did not know. I never learned the fate of the others who were with me in that bunker. The attack came in the early morning hours. I was awakened by an explosion and headed for the door where an enemy soldier was waiting. He shot me twice and the bunker then exploded caving in on me. When I was finally dug out and rescued, I was evacuated to Japan via LZ Baldy and then Danann.

If you can help in any way, I will certainly appreciate it. I am hoping that I can possibly get some questions answered that have bothered me for many years.

Regards,
David M. Dupuy
985-229-9530, dupuyd@wildblue.net

LOOKING FOR D, 3/21, LZ CENTER, 68-69

I'm looking for; SGT Thomas DiTroia from CA; LT Keith Young from DC; Chaplain Moody.

Contact;
Daniel DeRibas
RD H-2, Epsom, NH 03234-4356
702-622-2949

196th WEB SITE

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has its own Internet domain. Please visit the website at:

www.196th.org

You can also leave a message on the 196th Website Guestbook at: **www.196th.org** to search for friends or information. Make sure you leave contact information such as an e-mail address, or phone number. When leaving an e-mail address, use "at" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.



***2017 REUNION
196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
ASSOCIATION***

***LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
26 JULY - 30 JULY, 2017***



196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE ASSOCIATION REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL FIRST. You may call them at (800) 633-8723 and be sure to reference the 196th LIB. Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. If a valid email address is provided, a receipt will be sent electronically. Otherwise, your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/196LIB2017. Credit card transactions will be charged a 3.5% processing fee. **All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before June 28, 2017.** After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. A \$10 processing fee will apply to all new, onsite registrations at the reunion. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 196th LIB

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	New <input type="checkbox"/> Revision/Addition <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>CUT-OFF DATE IS 6/28/17</i>	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>TOURS</u>			
<i>Choose One:</i>			
Thursday 7/27: Kentucky Derby & Louisville Slugger Museums OR	\$ 66		\$
Thursday, 7/27: Ft. Knox & Patton Museum Tour	\$ 35		\$
Thursday, 7/27: Derby Dinner Playhouse (<i>dinner theater</i>)	\$ 67		\$
<i>Choose One:</i>			
Friday, 7/28: City Tour & Lunch Cruise OR	\$ 69		\$
Friday, 7/28: Urban Bourbon Tour	\$ 55		\$
<u>HOTEL EVENTS</u>			
Saturday 7/29: Banquet dinner (<i>please select your entrée below</i>)			
Prime Rib	\$ 51		\$
Chicken Piccata	\$ 42		\$
Vegetarian Ratatouille	\$ 43		\$
REGISTRATION FEE – Compliments of the Reunion Association, but please indicate the number of people attending.		# PP	
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST _____ LAST _____

UNIT _____ YEARS WITH UNIT 19____ - 19____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____ EMAIL _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).** By submitting this form you will be enrolled in our monthly newsletter subscription. To opt out of this service, please check the box.

196th Light Infantry Brigade Reunion

July 26-30, 2017

Wednesday, July 26

Early Bird Arrivals

1400 - 1900 Reunion Registration Open

1200 - 0000 Hospitality Room opens

Thursday, July 27

0730 - 0830 Reunion Registration Open

1200 - 0000 Hospitality Room open

0900 - 1415 Tour: Derby & Slugger Museum

1200 - 1700 Tour: Ft. Knox/Patton Museum

1300 - 1800 Reunion Registration Open

1800 - 2300 Tour: Derby Dinner Playhouse

Friday, July 28

0800 - 0930 Reunion Registration Open

0945 - 1430 Tour: City Tour & Lunch Cruise

1300 - 1800 Tour: Urban Bourbon Tour

1200 - 0000 Hospitality Room open

1400 - 1800 Reunion Registration open

1700 - 1800 Banquet table reservation sheets returned to Registration Desk

Saturday, July 29

0900 - 1100 General Meeting

1130 - 1230 Memorial Service

1200 - 1700 Hospitality Room Open

1830 - 2100 Banquet dinner

1730 - 1830 Cash Bar social hour

2100 - 0000 Music and Dancing

Sunday, July 30

0900 - 1000 Church Service

Farewells and Departure

CROWNE PLAZA LOUISVILLE AIRPORT – LOUISVILLE, KY

(888) 233-9527

www.cplouisville.com

Location

830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209

Located close to the Louisville International Airport and just minutes from some of Louisville's major attractions

Reservation Information

Please call the number above and reference the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association Reunion or please go to www.afr-reg.com/196LIB2017 and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page

Group Name: 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

Reunion Dates: July 26-30, 2017

Rate: \$112 + tax (currently 16.07%). Base on availability, the rate will be honored two (2) days prior and two (2) days after the reunion dates

Cut off Date: 06/28/17 Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations must be accompanied by a credit card guarantee. Reservations can be cancelled up to 6pm on the day of arrival. No shows and late cancellations will be charged.

Parking & Shuttle Information

The Crowne Plaza provides complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Louisville International Airport (SDF).

Located on the lower level next to the Information Booth is the Reservation Center calling board. Please contact the hotel upon your arrival and the shuttle will pick you up at the right of the taxi stand on the green curb. For further information, please inquire about the airport shuttle when making reservations. The hotel also offers a complimentary shuttle service to the local area within 3 miles. The hotel also provides complimentary parking for all guests staying at the hotel.

Wheelchair Rental

ScotAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scotaround.com for details or to make reservations.

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

KENTUCKY DERBY MUSEUM / LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM

Thursday, July 27

Thundering Thoroughbred hooves, rolling hills of bluegrass, visit Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Enjoy a 360-degree multi-media show that surrounds you with the images and sounds unique to Derby Day, “the most exciting two minutes in sports.” Take a tour of historic Churchill Downs (weather permitting). Weigh in on a jockey scale and test your betting skills with their computer. Then make a final stop in the Finish Line Gift Shop for Derby memorabilia and souvenirs. The other destination for today is the Louisville Slugger Museum. After watching a short film, walk through the full-size dugout and onto the museum’s playing field. See rare baseball equipment and memorabilia. Complete the tour with a walk through the Louisville Slugger manufacturing facility and see bats being turned for today’s baseball stars and tomorrow’s major leagues. We’ll have a simple box deli lunch at this museum.

0900 board bus, 1415 back at the hotel

\$66/Person includes bus, escort, admissions & lunch

FORT KNOX / PATTON MUSEUM

Thursday, July 27

After an early lunch on your own at the hotel, we’ll head to Ft. Knox for a driving tour of this historic base. Originally created in 1918 during WWI, the base was closed in the late 1920’s, only to be re-opened later. In 1932 the 1st Cavalry Regiment, the Army’s oldest mounted unit, arrived at Fort Knox and exchanged its horses for armored combat cars. Then it’s on to the General George S. Patton Museum and Center of Leadership, dedicated to one of the most colorful of all twentieth century military leaders. Come explore the history of the United States Army through personal stories, artifacts and film while viewing the foremost collection of Patton material in the world. The exhibits depict the history of Fort Knox, where the Armored Force was formed in 1940, and the development of cavalry and armored weapons, equipment, and uniforms from the Revolutionary War to the present. The Patton Gallery contains many of the General’s personal items, including his famous ivory-handled pistols. Outside, you will see many historically significant vehicles and equipment.

1200 board bus, 1700 back at hotel

\$35/Person includes bus and guide

DERBY DINNER PLAYHOUSE

Thursday, July 27

An entertainment tradition for thirty years, Derby Dinner Playhouse offers live-stage productions, a plentiful buffet, and desserts that are so big you’ll need two spoons. Derby Dinner’s lavish buffet features Classic American Cuisine. Selections include a full salad bar, a variety of vegetables, fish, beef or turkey, hot rolls, and beverage (dessert not included). Take your time as the “Footnotes”, Derby Dinner’s own talented vocal ensemble, entertain you just prior to the stage production. After dinner, you will be treated to live theater in the round. ***The Music Man is currently scheduled on this date.***

1800 board bus, 2300 back at hotel

\$67/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner show.

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

CITY TOUR / LUNCH CRUISE

Friday, July 28

Louisville's Main Street has the second largest collection of cast-iron storefronts facades, only New York City has more. Enjoy the morning with a scenic driving tour of Louisville. See the Humana Building, the Kentucky Art and Craft Gallery, and the Fall's Fountain. View the historic areas of West Main Street and St. James Court, as you take in the beauty of many of the nation's finest Victorian mansions. Afterwards, board the Spirit of Jefferson, a modern steamboat with two decks. Enjoy a scenic cruise up the Ohio River with a lavish luncheon buffet.

0945 board bus, 1430 back at hotel

\$69/person includes bus, guide, and lunch cruise

URBAN BOURBON TOUR

Friday, July 28

Bourbon is more than a drink in Kentucky. It's part of the culture, tradition and heritage of the community. As America's only native spirit, it follows the timeline of American history and the founding of Louisville. In fact, the strategic location on the river played a vital role in the development of bourbon whiskey itself. Our first visit will be Bulleit Frontier Whiskey Experience. Originally opened on Derby Day in 1935 and reopened to the public in 2014, the Stitzel-Weller Distillery is one of the true cathedrals of the American whiskey industry. Located only five miles from downtown Louisville, the Bulleit Frontier Whiskey Experience is one of the most convenient and impressive along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. We'll enjoy a tour of the distillery and then a time in their tasting room. We'll then head to downtown Louisville and the Evan Williams Experience on Whiskey Row. The guided tour features an operating Artisanal Distillery where you will not only learn the process for making Bourbon, but you will see it being made right before your eyes. The tour also includes premium Bourbon tastings and concludes in our Retail Shop where you can take home an array of signature items, including a personalized bottle of Evan Williams. *Note: depending on number of people on the tour, the order of stops and distilleries may be changed.*

1300 board bus, 1800 back at hotel.

\$55/Person includes bus, escort, and two tours & tastings.

All participants must be 21 years of age.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of the hotel) at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.

Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour price

Register online and pay by credit card!

www.afr-reg.com/196LIB2017

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$7 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

LANDING ZONE CENTER

by: Daniel P. Phillips, D Company, (Black Death), 3/21st

A description of LZ Center would be a mountain top about 350 feet high with two sets of concertina wire circling the top, about 800 feet long and 300 feet wide. Inside the wire was Headquarters of the 3/21st Infantry.



LZ Center from the air

There were three ways to get to LZ Center, the best way was by helicopter, or the east side, which gradually tapered off through the grass, and then there was the west side, which was very steep and ended outside the village of Nui Loc Son.

On LZ Center we had a medical battalion station, Bravo battery 3/82nd Arty, a mess hall, a chapel, an ammo dump, and two helicopter landing pads on each end of the LZ.

Around the perimeter inside the wire were about 35 to 40 bunkers with fighting positions in front.

When Delta Company would come on to the LZ, we would move into these bunkers and stay three days, and then move out and then another company would come on and replace us as we moved off the LZ. Nobody stayed in these bunkers permanently.



Red Cross ladies on LZ Center



*Daniel Phillips
Mountain morning on LZ Center*



*Americal
Commanding General
visits LZ Center*

While on LZ Center we got a chance to sleep off the ground in a dry bunker, we had a mess hall to get a hot meal... and a chance to fill sandbag after sandbag all day long.

Mr. Tootsie Roll - Carl Jacobs



**Carl's squad with Tootsie Roll Pops
Carl is at far right with headband.**

In 1970 when Carl was in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, a buddy received a package of Tootsie Pops. Carl was the one with film in his camera to take a picture.

In 1991 when the Vietnam Veterans Support Group was planning an All Vets Jubilee, Carl remembered the photo, sent it to the Tootsie Company, and received candy to pass out to children along the parade route.

In 2003 a family friend was deployed to Iraq. Carl gave a package of Tootsie Pops to his mother. When the Tootsie Pops arrived, the members of the 101st Airborne Division enjoyed the treats from home. For local Military History Days, Carl arranged for 5 cases of Tootsie Roll products to be distributed among the 2000 visiting students.

When the 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard were deployed, Carl presented cases of Tootsie products to them. He arranged for 1,000 Tootsie Pops to be sent to the members of the 1133rd National Guard Transportation Company. Then he helped the VFW send a box of 100 Tootsie Rolls to each of 10 Charles City active duty servicemen and women serving in the Middle East. Now every member of the Iowa National Guard that is deployed overseas receives Tootsie Company products through an arrangement with Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood at Camp Dodge.

Carl has become known locally for his connection to

Tootsie Roll Industries and U.S. soldiers. In fact, he was walking through the grocery store one day when someone said, "Hey, there's Mr. Tootsie Roll."

Since 2003, he has been responsible for distribution of over 7 million Tootsie products in support of the United States soldiers and military veterans, including 27 cases sent in 2006, to Iowa National Guardsmen deployed from Camp Shelby, MS, to Iraq. After Carl distributed special Tootsie Roll banks filled with flag-wrapped Tootsie Rolls to patients at the V.A. Hospital in Des Moines, the Tootsie Company followed his lead and sent their product to 2.2 million veterans in every V.A. facility in the nation.

Carl's reason for doing this is to show support for our service men and women—support that he did not receive when he was serving his country in Vietnam. In 1970 he served 10 months "in country" in Vietnam with Delta Company 2/1 196th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. As an infantryman he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal.

Currently Carl, born in 1946, resides in Charles City, and is retired.

Donald P. Sloat



SPECIALIST FOUR DONALD P. SLOAT

HOMETOWN Coweta, Oklahoma

BORN February 1949

ENLISTMENT DATE March 1969

UNIT 3rd Platoon, Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division

MILITARY OCCUPATION (MOS) 11B - Infantry Machine Gunner

TOUR OF DUTY Republic of Vietnam, 1969 - 1970

After attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma, Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat enlisted in the Army March 19, 1969, at the age of 20. Upon completion of his initial training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, he was assigned as an M60 Machine Gunner with 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on Sept. 25, 1969

He was killed in action Jan. 17, 1970, a month before his 21st birthday.

Sloat's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, Sharpshooter Badge with Machinegun Bar, and Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar.

Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving as a machine gunner with 3rd Platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam, Jan. 17, 1970.

D Company operated out of Fire Support Base Hawk Hill in an area of I Corps. They were located south and southwest of Danann providing security for local villages and conducting regular searches for NVA units. The territory they patrolled stretched from the coastal lowlands to the mountains and jungle. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong activity was common in the area, and D Company suffered regular casualties from snipers and booby traps.

On the morning of Jan. 17, 1970, Sloat's squad was conducting a patrol, serving as a blocking element in support of tanks and armored personnel carriers from F Troop in the Que Son valley. As the squad moved through dense up a small

Donald P. Sloat (cont)

hill in file formation, the lead Soldier tripped a wire attached to a hand grenade booby-trap, set up by enemy forces.

When the grenade rolled down the hill toward Sloat, he had a choice. He could hit the ground and seek cover, or pick up the grenade and throw it away from his fellow Soldiers. After initially attempting to throw the grenade, Sloat realized that detonation was imminent, and that two or three men near him would be killed or seriously injured if he couldn't shield them from the blast. In an instant, Sloat chose to draw the grenade to his body, shielding his squad members from the blast, and saving their lives.

Sloat's actions define the ultimate sacrifice of laying down his own life in order to save the lives of his comrades.

Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat's extraordinary heroism and selflessness are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army



President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to Dr. Bill Sloat, the brother of posthumous recipient, Specialist Four Donald Sloat at the White House, Sept 15, 2014



The family of Medal of Honor recipient Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat made a solemn visit today to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor the man who was killed in action saving the lives of other service members.

One by one, family members made their way past the columns of names permanently etched in the black granite wall, until they reached Sloat's name at Panel 14W.

Ohio Route 571 Dedicated to 196th and Soldiers



Story and photographs by: Ryan Berry, Bluebag Media, Nov 13, 2016

UNION CITY – Fifty years and nine days after SP4 Robert Fowble Jr.’s death and a month and a half short of 50 years of Pvt. Jack E. Beam’s death, the names of the two soldiers along with the unit they served in Vietnam will continue to be remembered by family members and anyone who travels State Route 571 between Greenville and Union City. On Nov. 12, former members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, family members of both soldiers and a host of community members joined together to dedicate the state highway in honor of the brigade, Fowble and Beam.

Although originally raised during World War II, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised for a second time at Ft. Devens, MA in September 1965. The 196th was scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic, but in mid-1966 it was rushed to the Tay Ninh Province of Vietnam. Two of those joining the brigade on their mission were Fowble of Greenville and Beam of Union City.

Both Darke County residents started their tour in Vietnam on July 15, 1966 and were only in-country a few months before they were tragically killed. The cause of death for Fowble was listed as “multiple fragmentation wounds,” while Beam’s death was listed as “artillery, rocket or mortar.”

Representative Jim Buchy recognized Bill Stemmer and Scott Stahl for their persistence in honoring the 196th and both Darke County natives. Their hope was to ensure these men would be remembered by future generations. With the assistance of Senate President Keith Faber, Ohio’s legislature agreed to memorialize these men.

Brian Beam, great nephew of Jack Beam, said, “I did not personally know Jack, but I’ve heard stories from

grandfather and the letters that Jack had wrote to our family. It’s dedications like this that will allow my family, my four kids to know Jack as they grow up and go to Washington and see his name on the wall or as they come down 571 and see this dedication. Thank you.”



196th Association President, Dave Eichhorn, presents a history of the 196th during the dedication ceremony.

Fowble’s sister was only 12-years of age when her brother was killed. Joanne Simmons said, “I remember certain things about it very vividly. I remember a letter he sent home that said, ‘Does anyone care we’re here?’ That has stuck with me for 50 years. This helps answer that question.”

Senate President Faber added, “These are the heroes that won’t have their faces on a box of cereal or have a pair of tennis shoes named after them. They’re the heroes without their service and sacrifice we wouldn’t have those fancy tennis shoes or any flavor of cereal we wanted.”

Doug Black, who died in July, was instrumental in

Ohio Route 571 Dedicated to 196th and Soldiers (cont)

helping organize the program. With his untimely death, Debbie Nisonger of the Ft. Greenville Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) stepped into provide assistance.

In addition to honoring Union City American Legion Post 158 and Greenville Veterans of Foreign Wars 7262 with commendations from the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate, the Fort Greenville DAR recognized the families of Fowble and Beam and members of the 196th with special Vietnam War 50th Anniversary lapel pins.

After the unveiling of the new sign, the Fowble and Beam families were invited to a special flag presentation at the



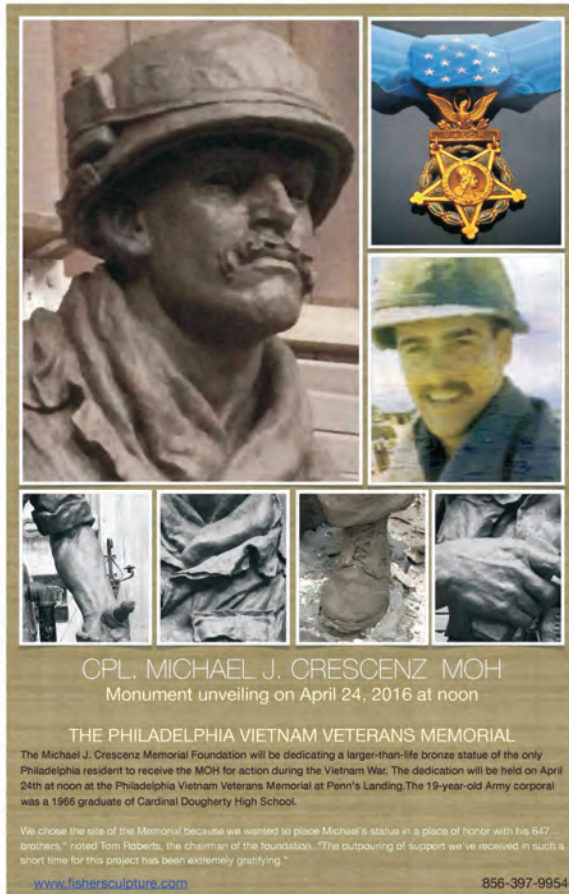
The families of SP4 Robert L. Fowble Jr. and PFC Jack E Beam received Honor and Remember flags.

Greenville VFW. Thomas Mitchell, Ohio Chapter Director of Honor and Remember of Ohio, presented each of the families with a personalized Honor and Remember Flag. The flag commemorates the service of those who have been killed in service to the United States of America; from the very beginning of our country to the most recent conflicts. His goal is to give an Honor and Remember Flag to all 70,000 Ohio Gold Star Families.

Each detail in the flag is an opportunity to remember the ultimate sacrifice some of our soldiers have made. The red field represents the blood spilled by brave men and women in America's military throughout our history. The white border beneath and surrounds the gold star recognizes the purity of sacrifice. The blue star represents active service in military conflict. This symbol originated in World War I, but on this flag signifies service in all wars. The gold star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who will not return home. The folded flag signifies the final tribute to an individual life presented to the family for their significant loss. Finally, the flame is an eternal reminder of the spirit that has departed this life yet burns on in the memory of all who knew and loved the fallen hero.

Steve Beam, Jack's brother, said the day was very emotional. "It brings back memories (of Jack), but hopefully the good memories," he said. Simmons added, "It's been a beautiful tribute. We really appreciate the recognition they've given our family. "I knew his name would live on, but I'm very grateful that others will remember the sacrifices and remember it was done with honor and with duty and dedication to their country."

Philadelphia VA Medical Center Renaming Event Recognizes Local Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient



On May 2, the Philadelphia VA Medical Center hosted a ceremony celebrating the renaming of the facility to Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Paying tribute to a soldier who embodied courage and commitment to the country he served, the medical center will be renamed for the only Vietnam-era serviceman from the Philadelphia area to receive the Medal of Honor.

Corporal Crescenz, a native of the West Oak Lane neighborhood, was 19 years old when he was killed in action on Nov. 20, 1968, while charging multiple North Vietnamese machine-gun bunkers during an ambush. If not for his incredible bravery, the Corporal's entire squad might have perished that day.

"There can be no better representative than Michael Crescenz of the 646 Philadelphia sons lost in the Vietnam War and honored at our Memorial," said Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund President Terry A. Williamson. "Naming the center after Michael will help ensure his extraordinary tale of courage and sacrifice on behalf of his country will remain an inspiration to us all for some time to come."

On Nov. 20, 1968, very early in the morning, Michael J. Crescenz, rose above his neighborhood, above his city, and above his state - and gave back much more to his country than was asked. Michael saved a lot of men, at the risk of his life. I believe Michael J. Crescenz is the bravest Philadelphian ever."

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center is only the third VA medical center to be named in honor of a Medal of Honor recipient.

President Barack Obama signed into law legislation officially renaming the Medical Center the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Dec. 16, 2014. Rep. Chaka Fattah (D., Pa.) and Senators Pat Toomey (R., Pa.) and Robert Casey, Jr. (D., Pa) sponsored the House and Senate bills to rename the facility.



A statue of Michael Crescenz was also dedicated .



THE 196th RING

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has worked with Jostens to create a Prestige Ring for Veterans of the 196th. This ring will only be available thru the 196th Association

CHOICE OF QUALITY

Jostens offers you 4 distinct metal alloy categories: 10K, 14K, or 18K Yellow or White Gold, Lustrum, and Questra.

18K Gold is the ultimate prestige metal, enjoy its brilliance for a lifetime.

14K Gold is rich and elegant with a durability you'll appreciate.

10K Gold - our most popular quality and an excellent choice to commemorate your special years.

Lustrum is an affordable alternative if you want the bright qualities of white gold.

Questra gives your ring a priceless golden look and a brilliant surface that is so durable it carries Jostens exclusive lifetime warranty.

Whichever alloy you choose, each has outstanding durability and wearability characteristics - backed by Jostens reputation for quality.

JOSTENS FULL WARRANTY

For The Lifetime Of The Ring

Every Jostens Military Ring is designed and crafted to exacting quality standards.

Jostens warrants the ring to be free from defects of material and workmanship for the life of the ring. Any ring not meeting these standards will be replaced if necessary, with an identical ring without charge.

In addition, Jostens Full Warranty provides these special benefits for the life of the ring without charge:

Resizing will be performed without charge.

Defective or broken simulated stones will be replaced without charge.



SEND ORDERS TO:

**196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
c/o Ken Wright
8280 Hwy 66 E.
Rome, IN 47574**

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tel. Number _____

196th ORDER FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> White Lustrum.....\$189.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$664.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Karat White Gold.....\$664.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Questra.....\$259.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$989.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Karat White Gold.....\$989.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat Yellow Gold.....\$1589.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Karat White Gold.....\$1589.00	
Engraving (inside ring) <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Initials _____ (FREE) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Name (or other) _____ add \$15.00 21 LETTERS & SPACES			
Stones <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth <input type="checkbox"/> Facet <input type="checkbox"/> Garnet (Jan) <input type="checkbox"/> White Spinel (Apr) <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby (Jul) <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Zircon (Oct) <input type="checkbox"/> Black Onyx <input type="checkbox"/> Amethyst (Feb) <input type="checkbox"/> Shamrock (May) <input type="checkbox"/> Peridot (Aug) <input type="checkbox"/> Topaz (Nov) <input type="checkbox"/> Mother of Pearl <input type="checkbox"/> Aquamarine (Mar) <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandrite (Jun) <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Blue (Sept) <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Zircon (Dec)			
Encrusting on Stones (available on smooth stones only).....add \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Infantry <input type="checkbox"/> MP Crossed Pistols <input type="checkbox"/> Artillery <input type="checkbox"/> Crossed Bayonets			
Finger Size _____ Your correct ring size may be obtained at a jewelry store.		ALL BIRTHSTONES ARE SIMULATED Sales Tax Must Be Added Order Must Have Finger Size Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.	Sub Total _____ 7% State Sales Tax _____ Shipping (per ring) 5.95 Total _____

196th Merchandise Order Form

Prices shown include postage & handling.

Description Price Quantity Amt Due

All weather 196th **Flag** (Durable/Double-sided) \$68.00 ____ x \$68.00 = _____

3 **Flag Desk Set** (US, 196th, POW/MIA) \$10.00 ____ x \$10.00 = _____

196th LIB Large **Tankard** \$20.00 ____ x \$20.00 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Coffee Mug** \$ 6.50 ____ x \$ 6.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Magnet** (4" x 6") \$ 6.50 ____ x \$ 6.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Wall Clock** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th LIB Patch **Engraved Tumbler** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th LIB **Challenge Coin** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

196th **Patches – Full Color** \$ 4.00 ____ x \$ 4.00 = _____

196th **Brigade Crests** "Ahead of the Rest" \$ 5.00 ____ x \$ 5.00 = _____

Newly Authorized Uniform Item

196th **CSIB Pin** (Combat Service ID Badge) \$15.00 ____ x \$15.00 = _____

196th LIB **Outside Window/Bumper Sticker** \$ **2.00** ____ x \$ **2.00** = _____

196th LIB Patch **Lapel Pin** \$ 3.00 ____ x \$ 3.00 = _____

196th LIB Canvas **Tote** \$ 7.50 ____ x \$ 7.50 = _____

Classic (White) 196th LIB T-shirt

5XL__4XL__3XL__2XL__XL__L__M__\$15.00 ____ x \$15.00 = _____

Order Total = _____

Make check payable to: 196th LIB Assn

Mail to: 196th LIB Assn, Ken Wright, Treasurer, 8280 Hwy 66E, Rome, IN 47574-9043

Follow-up or questions about merchandise:

Quartermaster - Rich "Doc" Mosher, rpm196@hotmail.com, 847-922-6011:

(Suggestion: Make a copy of this page)

**196th
CHALLENGE COIN**



From The Editor

Well, it seems like every year I go on and on about how we're getting older, and won't someone step up and take my job. This year shouldn't be any different, but the effects of older age on our leadership is beginning to show.

I contracted prostate cancer that was diagnosed in early 2015. At the Daytona reunion I still hadn't completed arrangements for treatment, but discussion with other 196th members who had gone through the same thing convinced me that surgery was the way to go. I finally had surgery in December 2015 using the VA Choice program to go to the leading cancer center in the Northeast. The surgery was successful and recovery was quick (several months), so I'm grateful for the advice our members provided.

Prostate cancer is Agent Orange presumptive, and the VA should take care of all costs and compensation. I qualified for the VA Choice program, which allows treatment outside the VA, because New Hampshire doesn't have a VA Hospital, and I live too far from other VA facilities. Working through the VA Choice program was a nightmare. I spent over 15 hours on the phone; they lost records, failed to record necessary information; didn't communicate adequately with the doctors or hospitals, and I'm still getting rejection letters from the VA despite the fact that all the bills were finally paid by them. If you use the VA Choice program, document EVERYTHING, including authorization numbers, people's names you talk to, and the date and time. DO NOT give up, it is your health and they owe it to you if it is service connected.

So... that's why there was no newsletter in 2015, and you're lucky that you're getting this one... Ha Ha. Just kidding, but we are faced with a serious problem if "younger" members with some expertise don't step up and take some of the burden off the officers and volunteers that have been carrying the load for many years.

I also have managed the website since it began. After years of relatively minor difficult, our service provider was purchased and our site was moved to new servers. Thus began a series of problems that have not all been resolved. The e-mail used by the officers went down, the FORUM is not working, and the Membership Form gives an error when submitting an entry. These things are being addressed, but slowly. Our software for maintaining the website is "old" like us, and I don't know if I'm capable anymore of learning "new" software, so rather than crash the whole system, I'm taking it very slowly in trying to fix the problems. Good news is that the Guestbook is back working and messages can be posted there.

Hope to see you in Kentucky, and have you volunteer for my job,

Ken McKenzie, Editor

Dues Renewal Form

(other side)

Please include your old address also if you have moved.



LOCATOR SERVICE

The 196th LIB Association will search its database, on request, to attempt to locate buddies you may want to find. Simply send a written or e-mail request to Warren Neill, Secretary, stating the name if you know it. We can also do a search by unit and year. State the Company, Battalion, and year(s) to search. We will send you a print-out of up to ten names returned by the search. If the search returns more than ten names, we will just send you the names without addresses. Look over the list to see if you want to get in touch with anyone, and we will send you those addresses.

The purpose of not sending long lists of names and addresses is to protect the mailing list from possible commercial exploitation. We have spent a lot of time and effort building our member database and do not want it used indiscriminately.

We currently have over 5,000 names on our mailing list so maybe we can help you find that long lost buddy.

Locating on the Web

You can also leave a message on the 196th Website Guestbook at: www.196th.org to search for friends or information. Make sure you leave contact information such as an e-mail address, home address, or phone number. When leaving an e-mail address, use "at" instead of the @ sign to prevent spammers from getting your e-mail address.

The Web Forum

If we do not have the person you are looking for in our database, the new website FORUM is another way to locate people. Put the name of the person you are looking for as the title of the new THREAD you create on the FORUM. Remember, you must sign up for the forum, by sending a User Name and Password to Ken McKenzie at Editor196@196th.org. He will create your account and send you confirmation. Once you log in, you can change your password.

Fill out and return form with your remittance to:

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association
Ken Wright, Treasurer
8280 Hwy 66 E
Rome, IN 47574

MEMBERSHIP

Every year, unfortunately, we lose some of the members on whose support we have counted. We have always been able to increase the membership slightly in spite of that through enrollment of new members. But, while getting new members is extremely important to us, it is far more important that we retain your interest and good will. So please take a minute now to check your mailing label. If your dues have expired or you have never paid dues, fill out the renewal slip and send it back to us with your check. We really need you!

You receive with your membership:
A membership card, one bumper sticker, and one window decal.

**CHECK YOUR
MAILING LABEL
FOR YOUR
DUES EXPIRATION DATE**

Dues are \$20.00 for the year.	Lifetime Membership: \$196.00
I would like (number): _____ Additional Bumper Stickers @ \$2.00 ea.	_____ Additional Decals @ \$2.00 ea.
Not included with membership package:	
_____ Lapel Pin @ \$3.00 ea. T-Shirt @ \$15 each, (number of each size ordered) ____ XXL, ____ XL, ____ L, ____ M	
Name: _____	Telephone: _____
Street: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Dates served in the 196th: From: _____ To: _____	
Unit: Bat/Reg _____ Company or Battery _____ Platoon _____	
Service #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ E-mail: _____	
_____ I cannot join at this time, but please add my name to the mailing list. _____ Address Change	
_____ Membership Renewal _____ New Member _____ Life Member \$ _____ Donation	

196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

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**196th ASSOCIATION
TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association has received tax exempt status. This means that contributions are tax deductible on your income tax.

We are also able to reduce mailing costs as a tax exempt organization.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make sure you fill in the application completely. There are several similar names on our mailing list, so we need the old address as well as the new address if you move.

There is a spot on the application where you may designate an additional donation to the Association if you would like. Several of our members have asked to use this donation to pay someone's dues who may not be able to afford it. We have achieved tax-exempt status and contributions are now tax deductible on your income tax.

Our tax exempt status also allows us to take advantage of lower postal rates.



196th Light Infantry Brigade



196th Light Infantry Brigade Association

Warren Neill, Secretary
PO Box 434 Cicero, Indiana 46034

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